

NEWCOMER EDUCATION AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2-2026

To the Chair and Members
Winnipeg Public School Board:

June 11, 2026

The Ad Hoc Committee on Newcomer Education reports as follows:

1. Land Acknowledgment

The Committee stated that the students, staff and communities of Winnipeg School Division are committed to truth and reconciliation through building relationships with Mother Earth, the original peoples of this land and the stories that bring us together. We acknowledge the place in which we gather is on Treaty 1 territory, the homeland of the Red River Métis and the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak and Dakota Oyate peoples.

2. Reflection – Success and Challenges

The Assistant Superintendent Mohammad Rezai invited Committee members to a round table discussion regarding WSD Successes and Challenges by sharing perspectives, celebrating successes, and identifying challenges that may help inform future planning and support strategies.

The Committee was informed of numerous successes related to newcomer education, with caregivers expressing gratitude for the welcoming and supportive learning environments across WSD. The Committee was informed that caregivers felt their children's strong academic growth, increasing confidence, improved English language skills, and successful transitions through elementary, middle, and high school. Caregivers spoke positively about feeling safe and included in schools, noting caring staff, responsive communication, effective bullying prevention, and strong school communities where students support one another. Appreciation was also shared for accessible childcare, transportation services, caregiver engagement opportunities, clubs, nutrition programs, crossing guards, and inclusive school leadership. The Committee was also informed that many caregivers emphasized that this school year was especially meaningful, as they felt connected to the school system and supported in helping their children thrive both academically and socially.

The Committee was informed of several challenges experienced by newcomer families, with communication emerging as a key concern. Caregivers shared that frequent attendance and Safe Arrival calls, often without clear messaging or language supports, can create anxiety and confusion. Caregivers also expressed a desire for more timely communication regarding student behaviour, attendance, and academic performance, particularly before concerns become significant. The Committee was also informed that additional challenges included limited support for student regulation and special needs, concerns about bullying and supervision, transportation and bus service issues, difficulties navigating online registration and school choice processes, and incidents occurring outside of school that affect student wellbeing. Caregivers emphasized the importance of stronger communication, early intervention, and responsive supports to help students remain engaged, safe, and successful at school.

The Committee agreed to continue discussions on the challenges caregivers encounter with learning the procedures and navigating new systems. The Committee would like to continue discussions on increasing communication with families and supports required by students and families to ensure success in school.

Respectfully submitted,

Dante Aviso
Committee Chair

In Attendance:

Trustees: D. Aviso, T. Kuly, A. Evangelista (regrets)
Administration: M. Rezai, D. Vo (Administrative Support)
Schools Represented: Collège Churchill High School, Dufferin School, Elmwood High School, Faraday School, Fort Rouge School, General Wolfe School, École George V School, Hugh John Macdonald, Lord Selkirk School, École Secondaire Sisler High School, Sister MacNamara School, Tyndall Park School, École Victoria-Albert School, William Whyte School

Non-Voting/
Resource Members: A. Ahmed, H. Ahmed, J. Castro, C. Gautam, H. Paw, M. Sultani, N. Ourrhi, R. Kimani-Anderson, R. Hernandez, W. Fehler